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Chairman: Mr. MacKay ..... (New Zealand)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Kuznetsov

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Organization of work

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05-33720 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 127: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo *(continued)* (A/59/736/Add.16 and A/59/779)

1. **Ms. Pollard** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division), introducing the Secretary-General's report on the financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2005 (A/59/779), recalled that by its resolution 59/285 of 13 April 2005 the General Assembly had approved a revised appropriation of $954.8 million for MONUC for the 2004/05 period. It had also endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (A/59/735) and requested the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation. Because the revised appropriation had been approved only recently, and in view of the time required to address the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the 2005/06 budget for MONUC would not be submitted to the General Assembly until the main part of its sixtieth session.

2. Pending consideration by the General Assembly of the full budget for 2005/06, immediate cash and additional human resources were required for additional military personnel and to meet the Mission's operational requirements. The Secretary-General's request for commitment authority included 317 additional essential posts (127 international and 190 national staff) and 52 United Nations Volunteer positions, and also reflected the proposed establishment of a Personnel Conduct Office (seven international and four national staff). A total of 380 additional civilian personnel would therefore be required. The provisional establishment of those temporary posts was requested without prejudice to any decision of the General Assembly regarding the proposed staffing.

3. The requested commitment authority in the amount of $383.2 million comprised $138.74 million for the deployment of 760 military observers, 15,774 military contingent personnel and 268 civilian police personnel; $57.8 million for the deployment of 1,109 international staff, 1,549 national staff, and 543 United Nations Volunteers; and $186.64 million for operational requirements. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly were set out in paragraph 37 of the Secretary-General's report.

4. **Mr. Kuznetsov** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the financing of MONUC for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2005 (A/59/736/Add.16), said that the revised estimates for the 2004/05 MONUC budget were seriously flawed. In response to the report of the Administrative Committee and the resolution of the General Assembly, the Secretariat had announced its intention to undertake a thorough review of MONUC, its structure and its requirements and to reflect the results in a comprehensive and well justified proposal for 2005/06. The Secretary-General's report (A/59/779) had not been intended to provide the type of information necessary for a detailed consideration of the Mission's requirements, but merely to provide funding for the period during which the detailed budget proposals would be prepared and considered.

5. The Advisory Committee agreed that general temporary assistance should be used to meet the requirements for 134 additional international staff, pending submission of the MONUC budget for 2005/06. Additional national staff should also be provided through general temporary assistance. Care should be taken to avoid any suggestion that the provision of resources in response to the Secretary-General's request for commitment authority implied approval for the establishment of posts or the creation of new functions. The report of the Advisory Committee explained why the request for commitment authority should exceed a straight prorating of the revised estimate recently approved by the General Assembly. However, the Advisory Committee expected that the rigorous review of the Mission's structure and requirements requested by the General Assembly would lead to streamlining and economies. Its recommendation for full approval of the commitment authority requested, but for assessment of a lesser amount at the current stage, reflected those considerations.

6. **Mr. Getachew** (Ethiopia), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the Group supported the Secretary-General's request for commitment authority, with assessment, to meet the operating costs of MONUC for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2005. It recognized that, owing to the limited time

since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 59/285, the Secretariat had been unable to complete the review of resource requirements for the Mission requested by the Assembly. Nevertheless, it regretted that it had not been possible to submit a full budget for MONUC for 2005/06. The Secretariat should make every effort to adhere to the peacekeeping budget cycle, and the final budget submission should reflect the outcome of the review undertaken.

7. While there had been improvements in the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the humanitarian situation remained critical, with some 3 million Congolese in acute need of assistance. In addition, the number of Congolese combatants who had been disarmed and demobilized remained short of the target of 5,000. With regard to foreign combatants, the Group welcomed the decision of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) to participate in the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation or resettlement (DDRRR) process and called on MONUC to continue to facilitate its full implementation. The Group also welcomed the progress made in normalizing relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring States.

8. The organization of national elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the first in nearly 40 years, would pose significant logistical challenges. It would therefore be critical to provide MONUC with sufficient resources to assist the Congolese Government with the preparations for and holding of the elections, in accordance with the Mission's mandate. In that connection, the Group wished to encourage the establishment of electoral focal points in the 11 provincial capitals and other major population centres and of the international task force on rule of law. All peacekeeping forces should have available a reserve battalion to deal with emergency situations. The formation of the proposed integrated police unit would therefore be most welcome.

9. The management of MONUC must take steps to prevent a recurrence of the acts of sexual exploitation and abuse committed at the Mission, and appropriate disciplinary action must be taken against all perpetrators by the respective troop-contributing countries. The Group supported the proposal to establish an international fund to support victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by mission personnel. That would maintain the positive image of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

10. The Group concurred with the Advisory Committee that a rigorous review of the structures and requirements of all peacekeeping missions should be undertaken with a view to achieving further streamlining and economies. In addition, the Fifth Committee should be provided with an update on the progress made in the implementation of all peacekeeping mandates so that the current and potential challenges facing missions could be identified and measures developed to address them. Lastly, immediate cash and additional human resources were needed to support the additional military personnel and meet the operational requirements of MONUC.

11. **Mr. Xudong** Sun (China) said that the budget of MONUC was among the largest of all United Nations peacekeeping mission budgets and that China had always attached great importance to it. The Secretariat's failure to provide the Committee with the full MONUC budget was deeply regrettable and demonstrated a lack of seriousness. The arbitrary postponement of the full 2005/06 budget until the sixtieth session of the General Assembly was unacceptable and the Secretariat must work hard to avoid such a predicament in the future.

12. Commitment authority was a contingency measure, not a blank cheque. The Secretary-General's report did not provide an analysis of resource requirements and was not specific enough. The Secretariat should provide further information on the detailed cost estimates of MONUC, by category, for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2005, and on the actual expenditure for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005. Moreover, the Advisory Committee should provide more details concerning the commitment authority request.

13. China agreed with the Advisory Committee that the highest-level officials of peacekeeping missions should be involved in formulating objectives and preparing the Mission's budget in order to improve the budgetary process. MONUC should carefully study the relevant recommendations of the Advisory Committee and take effective measures to improve its management, in the light of the reality on the ground. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations also had an important responsibility to provide concrete guidance and supervision to all missions.

14. The Chinese delegation strongly condemned the behaviour of the few individuals from MONUC who had engaged in the sexual exploitation of minors. Their behaviour had not only undermined the credibility of United Nations peacekeepers, but had also caused grievous harm to the local population already deeply afflicted by war. MONUC should give priority attention to the eight recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and immediately put in place stern deterrents and preventive measures.

15. **Mr. Elnaggar** (Egypt) said it was extremely regrettable that the Secretariat had not submitted a full budget for MONUC, and that the Committee was once again obliged to consider a significant commitment authority request without having a comprehensive report or specific budget before it. Although the Secretariat's difficulties were understandable, Member States should not be asked simply to "rubber-stamp" such requests without being given the opportunity to consider them in detail.

16. **Mr. Mazumdar** (India), noting the Committee's deep disappointment at the Secretariat's inability to present a budget for MONUC, said that his delegation supported the statement made by the representative of Ethiopia on behalf of the African Group. Although the General Assembly had been approving ad hoc amounts for MONUC during the previous year and a half, his delegation had not been paid any reimbursements for its commitments to MONUC since 2003, and he wished to know the reason why. He also wished to know why verification reports had not been approved for MONUC, and how the Secretariat proposed to resolve the situation.

17. **Ms. Pollard** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division) said that she had noted the Committee's disappointment and concern at the Secretariat's failure to provide a full 2005/06 budget for MONUC. However, in response to the revised 2004/05 budget, a number of issues had been raised by the Advisory Committee and endorsed by the General Assembly, and the Secretariat needed time to address those issues comprehensively. Indeed, consideration of some of the issues raised might need to be extended into the 2006/07 budget. Since the time period available to prepare the 2005/06 budget had been too short, the Secretariat hoped that the Committee would provide the requested commitment authority pending the preparation of a more detailed budget.

18. The Secretariat would provide an update on the progress of MONUC and a preliminary report on the status of expenditure by MONUC as of 30 April during the Committee's informal consultations. The Assistant Secretary-General for Mission Support would address the Committee concerning the instances of sexual exploitation of minors, with particular regard to MONUC. With respect to the holding of elections, a joint assessment mission had been undertaken by the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which were currently preparing the Secretary-General's report on the matter.

19. The Secretariat had noted the disappointment of troop-contributing countries, which had experienced delays in reimbursements. However, costs had been reimbursed to July 2004 and contingent-owned equipment payments had been reimbursed to January 2004. The expansion of the Mission had led to delays in reimbursements, but now that the revised budget had been approved by the General Assembly and assessments had been issued, the Secretariat should be able to rectify the delays in reimbursements and bring MONUC more into line with other missions.

Agenda item 155: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (*continued*)
(A/59/736/Add.13 and A/59/745)

20. **Ms. Pollard** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 and expenditure report for the period from 1 May to 30 June 2004 (A/59/745), said that, against an appropriation of $49.3 million, expenditure for the period from 1 May to 30 June 2004 had totalled $34.6 million, leaving an unencumbered balance of $14.7 million. The lower than anticipated expenditure reflected reduced requirements under military and civilian personnel costs owing to delays in the transfer of authority from the Multinational Interim Force, which, in turn, had delayed the deployment of troops and their contingent-owned equipment, and to delays in the recruitment of international staff, some of whom had been reassigned from existing peacekeeping missions. In addition, there had been reduced requirements under facilities and infrastructure because of delays in the procurement of prefabricated facilities, generators and security and safety equipment, many of

those items not having been available in the strategic deployment stocks.

21. The proposed budget amounted to $478.1 million, representing an increase of $99 million, or 26.1 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2004/05. Several factors had contributed to the variances. The increased requirements under military personnel costs were attributable to the full deployment of the authorized strength of 6,700 military personnel, adjusted by a 2 per cent vacancy factor, compared with a phased deployment of 5,844 troops in 2004/05. The additional requirements under civilian personnel costs reflected a 10 per cent vacancy factor applied to the full deployment of international staff, compared with a 35 per cent delayed recruitment factor applied to a phased deployment in 2004/05. The higher requirements under facilities and infrastructure resulted from increased construction services, a higher provision for the self-sustainment of military contingents and formed police units, the planned installation of vehicle fuel dispensing points in 13 districts and higher rental charges for premises, since those provided by the Government did not meet the Mission's operational needs.

22. **Mr. Kuznetsov** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of ACABQ (A/59/736/Add.13), said that the Advisory Committee's recommendation on the budget of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) took account of its observations on the proposed staffing requirements, as well as on consultants, outsourcing, travel, vehicles and information technology equipment.

23. Concerning performance for the current period, preliminary data on expenditure indicated that there was potential for savings under civilian personnel and facilities and infrastructure. The Advisory Committee expected the performance report for 2004/05 to reflect those savings. In addition, it should indicate the financial impact of hurricane Jeanne on the Mission. The Advisory Committee had been informed that, as an expedient, national staff had initially been recruited as individual contractors. However, functions of a continuing nature should be carried out by staff occupying established posts, and the related expenditure should be charged to staff costs. Every effort should be made to regularize the situation at MINUSTAH as a matter of urgency.

24. The budget of MINUSTAH for 2005/06 and a number of other mission budgets provided for support to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes, which were traditionally funded through voluntary contributions but, as the Advisory Committee had previously stated, the General Assembly had yet to take the required policy decision on the matter.

25. In its resolution 59/17, the Assembly had authorized the Secretary-General to fill a number of posts in MINUSTAH, at appropriate grades, until 30 June 2005. The Secretary-General had been requested to rejustify those posts in his next budget with additional information on appropriate grades. While the budget document contained information in response to that request, the Advisory Committee had found little evidence of a serious review of the organizational structure of the Mission, which continued to be top-heavy and fragmented, with blurred lines of authority and potential for duplication and grade inflation. A renewed effort was required in that regard, while the next report should include a separate section on the implementation of previous recommendations of oversight bodies and ACABQ.

26. The proposed budget showed significant resource growth under a number of budget lines where outsourcing was proposed, including maintenance, security, communications support and other services. The Secretary-General was requested to ensure that the administration of MINUSTAH fully complied with the criteria of cost-effectiveness and efficiency of outsourcing stipulated in General Assembly resolution 55/232. Information on the implementation of that request should be provided in the next budget submission.

27. The Advisory Committee had made detailed observations with regard to the Mission's requests for consultants and official travel. It believed that most of the issues envisaged for consultants to work on could probably be better dealt with by local rather than international consultants. It had found insufficient justification for the proposed travel programme and expected the administration of MINUSTAH to reduce travel costs in 2005/06. Likewise, the administration should undertake a thorough review of all acquisitions and replacements of vehicles and information technology equipment with a view to optimizing the stocks and improving inventory control and reporting. The reductions called for by the Advisory Committee

could be made either in the areas identified by it, or elsewhere, since the entire budget was administered as one line.

28. While the Advisory Committee's report might appear harsh, it had not singled out any particular mission for special treatment, nor had it established linkages between missions. Its observations and recommendations were based on an objective, technical consideration of the proposals before it. They were not intended to impede the effective implementation of the Mission's mandate but rather to promote the most efficient utilization of its resources with a view to maximizing its capabilities.

29. **Ms. Ferguson** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that the recent surge in peacekeeping activities had placed unprecedented demands on the United Nations. The Secretariat was to be commended for its outstanding efforts to meet that challenge. The task facing the Committee, which must consider more than a dozen mission budgets and a wide range of cross-cutting issues, was equally daunting. Accordingly, in the interests of streamlining the Committee's work, the three delegations would use their statement to address a number of general peacekeeping-related issues, as well as to highlight some mission-specific matters.

30. Notwithstanding the progress made in implementing results-based budgeting, the quality of presentation of the various budget documents was uneven. Indeed, a number of submissions were unfocused and lacked key explanations and justifications. Proper budgetary processes were critical for the effective functioning of peacekeeping missions. Furthermore, the Committee relied on having comprehensive, coherent and transparent budget submissions in order to carry out its work. Every effort should be made to address the problem, both at Headquarters and in the field.

31. It was disappointing that the report requested by the General Assembly on the review of the management structure of all peacekeeping missions would not be available until May 2006. In the light of the increase in peacekeeping activities and the size and complexity of some missions, continued monitoring and further rationalization of mission structures was essential.

32. With regard to individual peacekeeping missions, the management of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) was to be commended for the mission's thorough and considered budget presentation. The coordination and cooperation between ONUB and MONUC was also welcome. Those missions, and others, should be encouraged to seek opportunities for inter-mission cooperation wherever possible. In the case of MONUC, the Committee had only an interim budget submission before it. However, the very scale of the task facing the Mission made comprehensive and timely budget reporting critical. Also, the function of the proposed Military Support, Planning and Liaison Office was not clear. As to MINUSTAH, the proposed budget for the Mission highlighted many of the questions that existed regarding the functioning of the integrated mission concept, the humanitarian pillar and the funding of such activities as DDR through assessed contributions. The three delegations looked forward to discussing those matters in the context of the Committee's consideration of cross-cutting issues, as well as in informal consultations on the relevant mission budgets.

33. With the overall peacekeeping budget level fast approaching the $5 billion mark, the need for rigorous budgeting and efficient management was greater than ever. In addition, Member States must be able to provide the Secretariat with clear guidance. That required comprehensive budget documents, transparent planning and information-sharing, and sensitivity on the part of the Secretariat to broader policy implications.

34. **Mr. Skinner-Klée** (Guatemala), speaking also on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay, said that the re-establishment of peace and security in Haiti and the rebuilding of its economy and society were political and humanitarian priorities for the countries of the region. Indeed, a number of those countries had contributed troops to MINUSTAH. It was now essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to carry out its mandate.

35. He noted with satisfaction the success of the recent visits to Haiti by missions of the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council. The level of participation in those missions and the number of representatives from both organs demonstrated the concern of Member States about the situation in Haiti. The United Nations was present in that country to help its population to achieve stability, peace and economic and social development. It must pursue those goals while fully respecting Haitian sovereignty.

36. Despite the significant progress made, the security situation in Haiti remained fragile. Adequate resources and international assistance must therefore be allocated to ensure that the forthcoming general elections were free and transparent and that there was broad participation by citizens. In that connection, the political dialogue initiated by the Transitional Government with the support of MINUSTAH must embrace all elements of Haitian society.

37. The chronic problems in obtaining funding for DDR activities were cause for concern. Reintegration programmes were crucial to the success of post-conflict reconstruction and must receive adequate financing if the considerable investment made by the international community in other areas was not to be compromised. Hunger and poverty were at the heart of crises in many countries and the solution lay in building stronger economies, increasing respect for human rights and promoting social reintegration.

38. Lastly, he was pleased to note that 57 quick-impact projects had been approved since June 2004 and that another 800 were proposed. The timely implementation of such projects enhanced the relationship between troops and communities and improved the Organization's image. All peacekeeping missions should therefore be provided with additional resources for that purpose.

39. **Mr. Fuenmayor** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) asked whether the Transitional Government of Haiti had established the National Commission on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, as required by the relevant Security Council resolution. The DDR programme should include the paramilitary groups that had destabilized the constitutional Government using weapons financed by the National Endowment for Democracy, a United States Government fund that was supposedly engaged in promoting democracy.

40. His delegation was concerned that the budget of MINUSTAH for 2005/06 provided for a contribution of $4.55 million to the DDR programme, to be charged to the peacekeeping operations budget. The General Assembly had not pronounced on that contribution, since MINUSTAH had been established by the United Nations in order to legitimize the invasion of Haiti by France and the United States. Nor had it given any mandate to the Secretary-General to use assessed contributions to fund activities traditionally financed through voluntary contributions. Although Security Council resolution 1542 (2004) clearly provided for the participation of MINUSTAH in the DDR programme, it did not state that the United Nations was responsible for funding the programme.

41. Recalling that Security Council resolution 1576 (2004) urged relevant international financial institutions and donor countries to disburse promptly the funds pledged at the International Donors Conference on Haiti held in Washington, D.C. in July 2004, he asked how much money had been received so far, for what purpose the funds had been used, and whether the traditional practice of funding the DDR programme through voluntary contributions was also being continued. If sufficient funds had not been provided, efforts must be made to mobilize voluntary contributions from partners in the United Nations system.

42. Venezuela agreed with the Advisory Committee that the Mission continued to have a top-heavy and fragmented organizational structure with blurred lines of authority and a continuing potential for duplication and grade inflation. It was regrettable that the proposed budget did not address the implementation of previous recommendations of the supervisory bodies or ACABQ and failed to provide sufficient grounds for the proposed travel budget. He hoped that the administration of the Mission would reduce travel costs during the period 2005/06 and provide more detailed information about the proposed travel budget in its next budget request.

43. Although the Advisory Committee had previously stated that a reduction of $9.3 million in the proposed budget for 2004/05 was possible, it stated in its report (A/59/736/Add.13) that in view of the significant impact of hurricane Jeanne, the full amount requested by the Secretary-General should be appropriated, and that the financial impact of the hurricane should be reflected in the relevant performance report for MINUSTAH. While his delegation understood that the report would be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, a table should nevertheless be provided, reflecting the costs already paid for from the $9.3 million in question and the future commitments to be met from the same resources.

44. Although the Secretariat did not have a mandate from the General Assembly to require Member States to provide assessed contributions to fund the DDR

programme, it could not use resources allocated to the Mission's budget for that purpose and must continue to use the traditional mechanism of voluntary contributions. The performance report for the Mission for the period 2004/05 should include detailed information about costs relating to the additional $9.3 million. If the total sum was not used, the remaining funds should be made available for the reimbursement of Member States. Lastly, the United Nations should review the operations of MINUSTAH in order to ensure that the Mission contributed to the restoration of Haiti's democratic institutions by the sovereign will of the Haitian people and promoted its economic and social development.

45. **Ms. Holguín Cuéllar** (Colombia) said that Latin Americans had responded to the crisis in Haiti by demonstrating solidarity and helping various components of the Mission. Colombia had provided the services of a police anti-drug unit and assistance with basic sanitation and education facilities. Haiti's people would not be able to emerge from poverty and its consequences unless they and their institutions were given support.

46. The Mission was the only peacekeeping operation in the Americas, and had already made progress. She hoped that the Committee would allocate the resources needed for quick-impact projects, electoral assistance and DDR programmes.

47. **Mr. Ramlal** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that his delegation had welcomed the establishment of MINUSTAH and the decision of the Economic and Social Council to create an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. Those efforts by the international community would contribute to stability and development in Haiti. His delegation supported the proposed budget for MINUSTAH for 2005/06. The components outlined in the budget document would facilitate the formation of functioning democratic institutions, the consolidation of the rule of law and the promotion of economic and social development. He hoped that the General Assembly would provide the Mission with the necessary resources for the implementation of its mandate.

48. **Ms. Pollard** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division) said that she would reply to the questions posed in informal consultations. However, she wished to stress the importance of the resources requested for DDR activities in the budget for MINUSTAH. She recalled that information on the Mission had been included in the non-paper on DDR previously distributed to delegations.

Agenda item 123: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2004 (A/59/752 and A/59/790)

Peacekeeping Reserve Fund (A/59/787 and A/59/791)

49. **Ms. Pollard** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division) said that the report of the Secretary-General on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2004 (A/59/752) covered a total of 18 closed peacekeeping missions, 11 of which had a cash surplus, and 7 a cash deficit. Outstanding loans must be deducted from the available cash balance. The General Assembly, by its resolution 58/288, had decided to postpone until 30 June 2004 the return of the remaining 50 per cent of the $84,446,000 available from closed missions for credit to Member States at the end of June 2002. It had taken no decision regarding the balance available at the end of June 2003. The action requested of the General Assembly regarding the balance available at the end of June 2004 was set out in paragraph 10 of the report.

50. The report of the Secretary-General on the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund (A/59/787), covering the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004, provided information on the accumulated surplus of $13.79 million in excess of the authorized reserve of $150 million, as well as on the loans made from the Fund in 2003/04 and the loans outstanding as at 30 June 2004. The action requested of the General Assembly was set out in paragraph 6 of the report.

51. **Mr. Kuznetsov** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's related report on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions (A/59/790), requested that future reports of the Secretary-General should routinely include information on unpaid assessments, accounts payable to the Member States and other liabilities of closed missions as at 30 June 2004. It recommended that the General Assembly should accept the proposals contained in paragraph 9 of the report of the Secretary-General.

52. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund (A/59/791), he noted the Secretary-General's proposal to apply the excess balance in the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund to finance the support account. Although the Advisory Committee had recommended acceptance of similar proposals in the past, it was of the opinion that each proposal should be considered on a case-by-case basis. It wished to point out that what had been termed an "excess balance" in fact included large amounts in outstanding loans. Taking into account immediate start-up requirements for the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) and requirements for the expansion of MONUC, the Advisory Committee was recommending that the Fund should not be used in connection with the financing of the support account.

53. **Mr. Prato** (Uruguay) said that Uruguay, despite its financial difficulties, tried to keep pace with its financial contributions to peacekeeping operations. With 2,600 peacekeepers in various missions, mostly in Africa but also in Haiti, 10 per cent of its armed forces personnel were serving abroad.

54. As a major troop-contributing country, it was concerned that the Advisory Committee, in paragraph 13 of its report on the report of the Board of Auditors on the administrative and budgetary aspects of peacekeeping operations (A/59/736), had highlighted long-outstanding accounts payable at the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). The problem was not confined to UNMIK. The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) had owed funds to Uruguay for 11 years, and the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group at the 2005 substantive session (A/59/19) had also referred to the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM). To work towards a solution, the General Assembly, in its resolution 57/319, had requested from the Secretary-General a report on the feasibility of consolidating the accounts of the various peacekeeping operations. He was disappointed to learn that the increase in the number of peacekeeping missions would delay the report until the Assembly's sixtieth session. Uruguay agreed with the Board of Auditors that peacekeeping operations had left too many issues unresolved. The Administration must play a greater role in addressing them.

55. **Ms. Lock** (South Africa) said that Member States had an obligation under the Charter to bear the expenses of the Organization. They were collectively responsible for paying assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions, though allowances must be made for those with genuine economic difficulties. Peacekeeping operations were a core task of the Organization and contributed to maintaining international peace and security.

56. South Africa was in favour of authorizing the Secretary-General to retain the cash balance available in the accounts of closed peacekeeping missions, but agreed that it was only fair to reimburse Member States which had faithfully met their commitments to those closed missions. Despite its concern at the practice of cross-borrowing, it recognized that the Secretary-General had little alternative in the face of the failure of Member States to pay their assessed contributions, resulting in cash shortages in several active peacekeeping missions and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). The action proposed by the Secretary-General and endorsed by the Advisory Committee was sensible, as funds could not be returned to Member States without affecting certain active peacekeeping operations.

57. In the specific cases of MONUC and MINUSTAH, the General Assembly should provide adequate human and financial resources to ensure that Security Council mandates were fulfilled. Economic development and reconstruction in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti required long-term commitments from the international community.

58. **Mr. Mazumdar** (India) said that he supported the proposal of the Secretary-General to retain the cash balance available from 11 closed peacekeeping missions to meet the requirements of UNMIS and MONUC, in particular, until assessed contributions were received. All Member States must pay their assessed contributions for all peacekeeping missions promptly.

59. With regard to the seven closed missions with deficits, he regretted that no solution had been found to Member States' failure to pay their assessed contributions and the Organization's failure to pay Member States for troops and contingent-owned equipment. India alone was owed $16 million for two such missions and would like the Secretariat to indicate what action it had taken in the past year to recover payments or to explain why it had taken no action. Like the representative of Uruguay, he was

disappointed that the report which the General Assembly had requested in its resolution 57/319 would not be submitted until its sixtieth session.

60. He wondered, lastly, whether the Secretariat planned to make pro-rata payments to Member States which were owed reimbursements from UNTAC and UNOSOM to reflect the modest reduction in the deficits of those missions.

61. **Ms. Udo** (Nigeria) said that Nigeria played an active role in peacekeeping operations, supported efforts to ensure that they were properly funded and was in favour of the Secretary-General's proposal to retain the cash balance available from the 11 closed missions, recognizing that he had little option but to do so.

62. The Organization relied heavily on developing-country troop contributors, including Nigeria. The Administration should indicate how it planned to address delayed payments to those countries in order to reward them for the sacrifices they had made to help the United Nations maintain international peace and security.

63. **Ms. Pollard** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division) said that she would answer delegations' questions in informal consultations, but wished to inform the representative of India that no pro-rata payments could be made to reflect reduced deficits in certain closed missions. The reductions were only accounting adjustments reducing those missions' liabilities and did not alter the fact that they still had a cash deficit.

Agenda item 108: Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (*continued*)

Information and Communications Technology Strategy: arrangements for the Galaxy system (*continued*) (A/59/265/Add.1 and A/59/736)

64. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Chief of the Coordination and Support Service in the Information Technology Services Division of the Office of Central Support Services) said that the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on the Information and Communications Technology Strategy (A/59/265/Add.1) dealt specifically with arrangements for the Galaxy system and contained proposals for the review of possible arrangements for the migration of financial and technical support to the Galaxy system from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to the Department of Management.

65. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the office of Human Resources Management had developed the Galaxy e-staffing system jointly and had used it for staff selection since 2002. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations continued to provide financial and technical support for a system that was not part of its core responsibilities and plans had therefore been made for a review and for related proposals to be presented to the General Assembly. The Secretary-General was requesting the Assembly to endorse the course of action suggested in his report.

66. **The Chairman** recalled that the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had introduced the Advisory Committee's report on the subject (A/59/736) at the Committee's 46th and 47th meetings, held on 2 May 2005.

Organization of work

67. **The Chairman** urged the coordinators of informal consultations to speed up consideration of the many items before the Committee at the second part of the resumed fifty-ninth session, and to make maximum use of informal informal consultations in order to save meeting resources. It was in the Committee's interest to avoid repeating the accumulation of outstanding matters and draft resolutions seen at the end of the main part of the session. There was little scope for deferral of the consideration of peacekeeping operations.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.